



*Los Angeles County
District Attorney's*

Courageous Citizen Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Long Beach

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Luis Moreno

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Lee Orquiola

With quick thinking and swift action, Mr. Moreno foiled a robbery and helped sheriff's deputies catch the suspect. On June 15, 2014, an armed man entered a wireless phone store in Carson. He announced he was robbing the business and pushed employees and customers to the back of the store. The armed man handed a trash bag to Mr. Moreno, a store employee, and demanded he fill the bag with phones. Mr. Moreno intentionally placed an iPhone dummy, which had an active GPS locator, into the bag. The robber left the store. When deputies arrived, Mr. Moreno told them the dummy phone was in the robber's bag and it should help them locate the suspect. The robber's location was identified and he was arrested with the stolen property.

Rosa Almanza

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Safaan Ahmed

While riding in a car in Long Beach, Ms. Almanza witnessed an older disabled man being attacked and stopped to help. On July 13, 2014, Ms. Almanza was a passenger in a vehicle, when she noticed a woman with a metal cane approaching an older man. Ms. Almanza attempted to warn the man that he was in danger, but it was too late. The blind 63-year-old man was hit over the head several times. Alarmed, Ms. Almanza asked the car's driver make a U-turn and stop. She saw the victim bleeding profusely from the head. Ms. Almanza called 911 and waited with the victim until police arrived. She provided a statement to police and offered the only eyewitness testimony at the trial. Without her help, the attacker likely would have been acquitted because the victim recanted his story – the attacker was his girlfriend.

Joshua White

Presented by Deputy District Attorney Lee Ashley Cernok

Mr. White rescued two women and helped put a violent sex trafficker behind bars. On May 15, 2013, Mr. White was leaving a Century City mall when he was approached by two women. They told him they had been forced into prostitution. When they tried to escape, the women said the physically abusive pimp locked them in a car while he went into the mall. He told them that he was going to take them across states lines. In the mall parking lot, the women left the vehicle and ran to Mr. White for help. As Mr. White listened to their story, he knew these were serious and violent crimes. He drove them to a police station so they could report the crimes. The next day, Long Beach police arrested the suspect. Mr. White testified against the pimp without hesitation, strengthening the prosecution's case.